(iii) The literary tradition by original and not borrowed from another speech community.

(iv) The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

(b) and (c) Only two languages *viz.* Tamil & Sanskrit have been declared as 'Classical language'. Many representations including one from Government of Karnataka have been received to declare Kannada as a classical language. No demand has been received in respect of Tulu.

(d) A Committee of Linguisitc Experts has been constituted in Sahitya Akademi. This matter has been referred to them.

Cultural relationship with neighbouring countries

589. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to strengthen further the cultural relations with neighbouring countries as it will help the people to people relations and thereby find solutions to nagging bilateral issues; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved during each of the last two years, neighbouring country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last two years (2004-05 and 2005-06) a Cultural Agreement has been signed with Nepal and Cultural Exchange Programmes have been signed with Bangladesh and Myanmar. Cultural Exchanges, which include exhibitions in Myanmar, Bangladesh and Nepal participation of Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan in Artists Camps for SAARC nations, participation of artists from China and Nepal in the XI Triennale India and exchange of cultural delegations have taken place during this period. Secretary level delegations of India and Pakistan have also met during each of these years for the promotion of friendly exchanges in various fields.